

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 13419

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ETRD EAGR AOUS ET

SUBJ: ANGOLAN DELEGATION TO COFFEE CONFERENCE: ETHIOPIA'S POSITION

REF: STATE 270320 AND 27321

1. POL COUNSELOR CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS (REFTELS) WITH HEAD MOFA'S AFRICAN/MIDEAST DIVISION ASSEFA LEGESSE ON NOV 15.

2. ASSEFA MADE THREE POINTS IN RESPONSE:

A. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE WOULD EXAMINE CREDENTIALS OF DELS TO COFFEE CONFERENCE. THIS CLEARLY POLITICAL PROCESS. HOWEVER, ONCE GIVEN DEL SEATED, WORK OF CONFERENCE COULD GO FORWARD AND NEED NOT BE POLITICIZED.

B. EPMG HAS RECOGNIZED STATE OF ANGOLA. IT HAS NOT RPT NOT RECOGNIZED ANY CONTENDING FACTION IN ANGOLA AS ANGOLAN GOVT. CONSISTENT WITH THAT EPMG POSITION, ETHIOPIAN DEL AT COFFEE CONFERENCE SHOULD REFRAIN FROM SUPPORTING ANY ANGOLAN FACTIONAL DEL PURPORTINT TO SPEAK IN THE NAME OF THE GOVT OF ANGOLA.

C. ETHIOPIAN DEL, HOWEVER, LIKELY COME UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM SOME AFRICAN REPS AT CONFERENCE TO FAVOR SEATING OF MPLA DEL. IT WOULD ACCORDINGLY "BE USEFUL" FOR US REPS TO APPROACH ETHIOPIAN REPS TO SET FORTH USG'S PERTINENT VIEWS. IF NECESSARY, EPMG DEL SHOULD BE URGED TO CONSULT MOFA. IF SO CON-
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SULTED, MOFA WOULD TRANSMIT DEL INSTRUCTIONS CONSONENT WITH EPMG

POSITION AS SET FORTH IN PARA 2(B) ABOVE.

3. COMMENT: ASSEFA MADE CLEAR THAT MOFA EXPECTED ETHIOPIAN DELEGATES TO BE SUFFICIENTLY AWARE OF EPMG'S POSITION ON ANGOLA "TO FOLLOW IT" IN JUDGING SEATING QUESTION. HE THEREFORE DID NOT WISH TO SENT SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONS UNLESS THESE REQUESTED BY EPMG DEL. ASSEFA IMPLIED, HOWEVER, THAT ETHIOPIANS MIGHT CAVE UNDER ANTICIPATED PRESSURES FROM OTHER AFRICANS. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT USDEL APPROACH EPMG REPS AND, PUTTING USG VIEWS, URGE THEM TO SEEK SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOFA ON THIS QUESTION.
HUMMEL

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